

**REMARKS**

Claims 2-8 are pending in the application. Claims 2-8 have been rejected.

Claims 2 and 3 have been objected to for informalities. These informalities have been corrected by amendments to the claims above. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 2, 3, 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rietman (US Patent No. 5,819,049).

As amended, claim 2 requires that the removable faceplate have a control button and a memory to allow the user to select storage of information related to a current signal received on the faceplate. For example, if a user is listening to a particular song and wants to store information about the song, such as the artist, date recorded, or the source, the user presses a button and this information is stored. See the specification, page 4 for the support for this amendment.

Rietmann discloses a faceplate that has a memory and some control buttons, but they do not allow the user to 'capture' data related to a current signal on the faceplate to allow storage of that data while the signal is being received. It is therefore submitted that claim 2 is patentably distinguishable over the prior art and allowance of this claim is requested.

Claims 3, 6 and 7 depend from claim 2 and should be ruled allowable for that reason and for their own merits. Rietmann does not teach an audio system having a removable faceplate with a control button and a memory to allow a user to store information related to the current signal being played by the faceplate, much less that the audio system has a speaker, as in claim 3, that the removable faceplate can exchange files with the base system, as in claim 6, or that the removable faceplate can also be connected to a host as in claim 7. It is therefore submitted that claims 3, 6 and 7 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art and allowance of these claims is requested.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rietman in view of Brandenburg et al. ("An introduction to MPEG Layer-3). The combination of references does not teach that the faceplate has a memory and a control button to allow the user to store information related to a current signal, and that the faceplate is a MP3 player. Brandenburg merely discusses MP3 format, and does not cure the deficiency of Rietmann set forth above. It is therefore submitted that claim 4 is patentably distinguishable over the prior art and allowance of this claim is requested.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rietman in view of Groeger et al. (US Patent No. 5,923,624).

Groeger discloses that the removable faceplate may be an audio recorder, but not that the audio recorder can allow capture of information related to the current signal on the faceplate by pressing a control button. In order to use Groeger, the user would have to both press the button and speak, rather than just capturing information present in the system, as described in the specification on page 4. It is therefore submitted that claim 8 is patentably distinguishable over the prior art and allowance of this claim is requested.

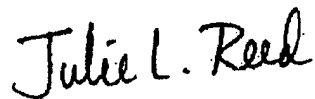
Claim 5 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rietman in view of Nagashima et al. (US Patent No. 5,537,673). As discussed above, the combination of references does not teach that the faceplate has a memory and a control button to allow information related to the current signal to be stored and the rechargeable batteries of claim 5. Nagashima does not disclose the use of a control button to store information related to the current signal and thus, the combination of references does not render the invention as claimed in claim 5 obvious. It is therefore submitted that claim 5 is patentably distinguishable over the prior art and allowance of this claim is requested.

No new matter has been added by this amendment. The art of a general nature has been reviewed and is not considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure. Allowance of all

claims is requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.



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Julie L. Reed  
Reg. No. 35,349  
Of Attorneys for Intel Corporation

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.  
1030 SW Morrison Street  
Portland, OR 97205  
(503) 222-3613  
Customer No. 32231